

The
Alcester Grammar



School Record

1932-33



MR. E. WELLS

HEADMASTER 1912-1933

Alcester Grammar School Record.

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EDITOR—MR. V. V. DRULLER.

COMMITTEE—

M. BROWNING, L. HARRIS, BAYLIS i., YATES.

Editorial.

The Summer term is always the most eventful one in our school year. It brings with it Sports Day, with its competitions on the field and indoors; it brings the annual Scouts' outing, when a visit is paid to some place of interest; it brings the annual visit to the theatre at Stratford; and at the very end it brings to members of the Sixth and Upper Fifth the Oxford examinations, which in many cases mark the end of school days.

The present term, however, is even more eventful. In February last Alcester Grammar School completed its first twenty-one years in its present form, and this month the twenty-first birthday is being formally celebrated. The date selected is the 13th. The celebration is to begin with a service in the Parish Church, Alcester, when an address will be given by the Archdeacon of Coventry (Ven. J. W. Hunkin, D.D., M.C.). Then will follow an exhibition of work at school, and a display on the field of physical drill, games and dancing, by boys and girls.

Another event of outstanding importance, but one which will be attended with the greatest regret, marks the close of the present Summer term. Mr. Wells, our headmaster, is resigning his position at the end of the present month. He came to Alcester as first headmaster when the school opened in February, 1912, there being then a mere handful of scholars, whose numbers, however, rapidly increased. Under his control, the school has passed through the difficult years of the war, and through the equally critical years since the war. Year by year the school has distinguished itself on the academic side, and the honours boards bear witness to the highly successful work that has been done

under Mr. Wells' guidance. And no' less successful have his scholars been in games, holding their own among the schools of the neighbourhood, as well as distinguishing themselves as members of county teams. No side of the training which aims at turning out useful citizens has been neglected during these twenty-one years.

All those who have had the good fortune to attend Alcester Grammar School during Mr. Wells' headmastership will feel a deep and lasting regret that the time has arrived for him to lay down the reins of office. They will always remember all that Mr. Wells has done for them: the kindly patience and thoroughness he has shown in all matters of the class room; the fine example and valuable advice he has given on the games field; the constant readiness he has displayed to advise and assist them both during school days and afterwards. Mr. Wells will take with him feelings of the highest respect and the sincerest affection. All join in wishing him and Mrs. Wells great happiness in their retirement at Oxford, and many years of good health in which to enjoy it.

The same wish is extended to Miss Wells, whose work in connection with the music, and particularly with the Musical Society, has been highly appreciated.

Mr. Wells will be succeeded by Mr. C. T. L. Caton, who for the past two years has been Senior Mathematical Master at Warwick School.

Headmaster's Letter.

DEAR READERS,

It is difficult for me to realize that this is the last time that I shall be writing my magazine letter to you. I believe some of you, perhaps more especially among the Old Scholars, had almost come to regard me as a permanent institution. But institutions change; and because a thing has been it is no reason why it should continue to be. We all grow older, and inevitably a time comes when it is best for us to move on. That time in my opinion has come for me.

My life as a teacher divides itself easily into six periods, each of them very happy ones, but by far the longest has been the time spent at Alcester, and my work here will always remain in my memory as the chief work of my life.

Naturally my mind travels back over the years that have elapsed since the school opened in 1912. The first two years of almost inconveniently rapid growth; then the war time, full of strange difficulties and grave anxieties, but brightened by the recollection of much help given by the older boys and girls; and the longer period since the war during which we have been hoping to see some sign of better times. It has been disappointing that improvements and developments one hoped for, have not been possible. We still endure in the huts extremes of cold and heat.

But I must not be gloomy, but remind myself of a very happy school life that has gone on year by year, of many friends, of glorious days, of honours won by past and present scholars.

I am proud of the school's record during these twenty-one years. The honours boards bear their silent testimony to the achievements of our students. Others have distinguished themselves in athletics and in games. But what gives me the greatest satisfaction of all is the feeling that most of our boys and girls leave school with a high standard of conduct, and a real desire to become useful members of society.

If I allow it my mind is at once filled with regrets that for me so good a time is coming to an end. But that one must not dwell on. It has been a great privilege to spend so much of my life surrounded by young people, and to have made such numbers of friends among them.

I wish this time to send a very special greeting from Mrs. Wells and myself to all Old Scholars, and particularly to those who are far away, and who will not be able to attend the Guild meeting at the end of the term. I have tried to call them all to mind.

May I give a last word of advice to those still at school. School days are generally very happy days; days of companionship and the making of friendships. Let me urge you to make the most of them in every way. They pass quickly and cannot be recalled.

Finally, I ask both old and present scholars to give a very hearty welcome to our successors, Mr. and Mrs. Caton. It is the very earnest desire of Mrs. Wells and myself that under their leadership the school may advance to greater successes than ever in the past.

And so once more, hail and farewell.

YOUR HEADMASTER.

The School Register.**Valete.**

*Saunders, D. (Upp. V), 1927-33. Bach, B. N. (Low. IV) 1927-33.
 Duddles, I. (Low. V), 1929-33.

* Prefect.

Salvete.

Gourt, C. (Low. IV). Hughes, E. P. (I).
 Grubb, K. H. (III).

Old Scholars' Guild News.

PRESIDENT—Mr. V. V. Druller.

SECRETARY—S. Bowen. TREASURER—R. Smith.

The Summer Reunion will be held at the school on Saturday, July 29th, and will commence at 2.45 p.m. An American tennis tournament has been arranged. Any Old Scholars wishing to play should send in their names at once to the secretary. Entries may be sent in in pairs or singly. Prizes will be awarded to the finalist couples. There will be dancing as usual in the evening

Members are reminded that their subscriptions (2s. 6d.) for the year 1933-34, fall due at the summer meeting, and should be handed to the treasurer.

The annual tennis match with the school was played on Monday, July 3rd, in fine weather; the school again won, the games being 58 to 38. The Old Scholars were represented by M. Sisam and F. Bunting, R. Bunting and H. Hodgkinson, M. Baylis and F. Rook, N. Holder and L. Anker.

Congratulations to M. Sheppard and W. A. Partridge, who have both obtained the B.A. degree at Birmingham University with 2nd class honours in history.

Also to R. Jackson, who has obtained her B.Sc. degree (2nd class honours) at Reading University.

And to K. Jagger, awarded the Social Study Diploma of Birmingham University.

To L. Earp, who has passed her Inter-Arts examination at Sheffield University.

And to E. Wood, who has obtained a bronze medal of the Incorporated London Academy of Music, for Elocution.

The annual cricket match against the School was played at Ragley on Monday, July 10th, and ended in a draw, the scores being:—Old Scholars 72 for 6 (dec.), School 62 for 5. The Old Scholars XI consisted of L. Anker, S. Bailey, G. Baylis, A. Brewer, F. Harper, G. Horton, A. Rook, F. Rook (capt.), K. Sherwood, and A. Wigley.

Births.

On December 19th, to Mr. and Mrs. George (née Annie Lamb, scholar 1918-20)—a son.

On April 20th, to Mr. and Mrs. Higson (née Florence Andrews, scholar 1913-21)—a son.

Marriages.

On October 17th, at Pershore, Albert E. Brooks to Barbara Jessie Bruff (scholar 1917-19).

On May 22nd, at Inkberrow, John Edwin Farmer (scholar 1920-26) to Hilda Gladys Walker.

On June 22nd, at Feckenham, Desmond Leonard Savage (scholar 1920-21) to Joan Hollington.

Death.

On May 4th, Anthony John Cofield, aged 11 years.

To Quote, or Not to Quote?

“And so, from hour to hour, we think and think,

And then, from hour to hour, we write and write—”

And thereby hangs the beginning of a magazine article. If there is one thing which is of use in a tight corner it is a proverb, but should your proverbial instincts fail, then you may with all safety have recourse to all that you can remember of a quotation. With Inigo Jollifant of the “Good Companions,” you may confound the politics of your Mrs. Tarvin by a strikingly eloquent “How now, you secret, black, and midnight hag!” or express the solitary nature of

your travels by "I wander lonely as a cloud absolutely!" No one who has not tasted of its sweets can know the value of quotation. It will amuse your friends, astound your enemies, add a new lustre to your most entertaining conversation; it may even, if the gods are with you, blind your examiner to your intellectual defects. It can also afford you infinite comfort under difficult circumstances.

When you are in direst agony as a result of someone's vocal exertions, remember bravely that

"From harmony, from heavenly harmony
This universal frame began."

Or, apropos of the weather, what could be more appropriate on the freshest of June mornings than to quote Christina Rossetti:—

"My heart is like a singing-bird
Whose nest is in a watered shoot;
Thy heart is like an apple tree,
Whose boughs are bent with thickset fruit."

Even if you are disappointed, and the rain it raineth every day, you may avail yourself of the consoling thought—

"Oft expectation fails, and most oft
Where most it promises."

Or if politics be your sphere, you may follow the example of the cartoonist and praise the National Government, sincerely or otherwise with

"Then none were for a party;
Then all were for the State."

Or, if you feel that a speech is required of you, you can launch out with "Friends, Romans, countrymen!" until you are overwhelmed with praise or ejected by main force—most probably the latter. But in either case you will be at an end of your troubles, for on no account will any speech be demanded of you again.

For your own private satisfaction you can make use of quotation to remind your brawny friend that

"It is not growing like a tree
In bulk, doth make man better be,"

while to the irate one at the height of his wrath you can softly exclaim—

“ Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?
Thou art more lovely and more temperate!”

Best of all, if ever you wish to turn the conversation, or when you begin to think that you had better steer clear of the subject under discussion, there is surely no more fitting remarks than the ever-delightful and more than useful

“ The time has come, the walrus said,
To talk of many things,
Of shoes, and ships, and sealing-wax,
Of cabbages and kings.”

The time has also come, incidentally, to realise that there is a very strict limit to the space allotted to me in this magazine. But alas, quotation fever has me in its grip—an all-powerful disease, I warrant you. Indeed, there was once a form whose members ransacked Shakespeare for appropriate epithets. One unfortunate became a “ cream-faced loon;” another, much to his disgust, a “ lily-livered boy.” And it has ever been whispered of one maiden that

“ She sat like Patience on a monument
Smiling at grief.”

I do not mean to suggest the use of such measures to enliven the art of friendship. Still, it is useful to remember the value of a quotation. Suppose you wish to silence your bombastic fool who is making much talk about a little matter. You may assert that you do not believe his story. How much better if you could thus wither him with scorn—

“ It is a tale
Told by an idiot, full of sound and fury
Signifying nothing!”

At which he should consider himself duly crushed and should in future hold his peace. Did I hear someone whisper that I should take the hint myself and cease this idle chatter. Alas, upon attempting to write a magazine article, I sadly realise that I am no orator, nor author either, and my dreams of a delightful and enchanting composition fade slowly into the light of common day. And so I have come to the bitter conclusion that such a masterpiece will never see realisation. So with tears and lamentation—

“ Let us all ring out its knell,
I’ll begin it—Ding, dong, bell,
Ding, dong, bell.”

M. A. B.

Notes and News.

The following new prefects have been appointed this term:—Sherwood II, Yates, Bailey, Colegate I, Styler.

At the closing meeting of last term, Mr. Wells made the usual presentations. The hockey stick was awarded to J. Jackson, who also obtained her colours. The football for improvement went to Baylis II.

Football colours were awarded to Savage I and Warner.

Sports Day was held on Thursday, June 1st.

The Scout outing took place on Friday, June 2nd.

Richards has been awarded his cricket cap for a good batting performance and for general service to the team.

A party from the Sixth, Upper and Lower Fifth Forms, with Miss Deans and Mr. Druller, visited the Stratford Memorial Theatre on Wednesday, May 10th, to see a performance of "Coriolanus."

A Rummage Sale arranged by Miss Deans to help the Lecture Fund realised £9 4s. 6d.

The Oxford examinations commence Monday, July 15th.

M. Browning last term won a scholarship for St. Hilda's, Oxford.

Twenty-four new subjects have been recently added to the Medici E.M.C. Prints (making a total of 236 pictures). Details of the new additions are:—Italian Schools 7, British School 9, French School 2, Spanish School 1, Flemish School 5.

A gloom was cast over the school in the early days of the term by the fatal accident to Cofield. He had been at the school for only two terms, but he was a particularly bright boy and showed considerable promise.

Mrs. Wells has kindly presented "The World's Best Fairy Stories" to Form I. Library; and to the fiction library "A Lady of King Arthur's Court" (Sterling); "Jock of the Bushveld" (Fitzpatrick); "Under Western

Eyes" (Conrad); "Mirror of the Sea" (Conrad); "Beau Geste" (Wren); "On the Face of the Waters" (Steele); "Twice Told Tales" (Hawthorne); "The Cabin" (White); "Robbery under Arms" (Boldrewood); "Old Greek Folk Stories."

Sports Day, 1933.

Sports day, held on June 1st, was this year a special occasion, both as being the twenty first of its kind in the history of the school, and as the last at which Mr. Wells will be present in the capacity of headmaster. Little more need be said as to the weather, the work indoors and the athletic prowess on the field, than that they all came quite up to the standard which could be desired for such an extraordinary occasion.

In spite of the beautiful weather, the attendance was not so large as in previous years; this being accounted for perhaps by the pessimistic warnings of the B.B.C. weather prophet. Once more thanks are due to Mr. Hall for his untiring energy in preparing the sports field, running off preliminary heats, and generally organising the day; also to the stewards and judges for their assistance in awarding and recording points—in short for making sports day the great success it was.

"Mr. Measles" had unfortunately thinned the ranks of all the sides, but in spite of this handicap, many close finishes and interesting races were to be seen. Again the obstacle race proved to be the most popular event, and additional amusement was offered to the onlookers in this race, when, as a result of a broken rope, many competitors were left struggling under the sheet. To conclude the programme a keen struggle between the Brownies and the Tomtits in the inter-House relay race, resulted in a victory for the latter by a few yards.

Mrs. Spencer, who gave away the shields and medals at the first sports day, twenty-one years ago, again kindly consented to do so. The Tomtits won both shields for the third time in succession, while the Jackals improved their aggregate of points for the Arts and Crafts to become runners up.

Styler is to be congratulated on securing the Victor Ludorum Sports Cup for the second time.

Three cheers for Mrs. Spencer and the sports officials brought the truly successful proceedings to a close, and thus passed the twenty-first sports day in the history of A.G.S.

Results:—**Over 14.**

100 yards—1 Luker, 2 Styler, 3 Richards, 4 Hodgkinson. Half-mile—1 Ledbury, 2 Goulbourne i, 3 Sherwood i, 4 Goulbourne ii. Slow bicycle race—1 Hodgkinson, 2 Goulbourne ii, 3 Baylis ii, 4 Lloyd. Obstacle race—1 Bailey, 2 Baylis i, 3 Lloyd, 4 Styler. 220 yards—1 Richards, 2 Ross, 3 Luker, 4 Styler. Quarter-mile—1 Savage, 2 Styler, 3 Ledbury, 4 Goulbourne i. Hurdles—1 Lloyd, 2 Bailey, 3 Sherwood i, 4 Styler. Consolation race—1 Sherwood i, 2 Baylis, 3 Goulbourne i, 4 Goulbourne ii. High jump—1 Lloyd, 2 Warner, 3 Bailey, 4 Luker. (5ft. 2ins.) Throwing the cricket ball—1 Hodgkinson, 2 Richards, 3 Luker, 4 Baylis ii. Cross country race (5 miles)—1 Ledbury, 2 Sherwood i, 3 Styler, 4 Goulbourne i. Long jump—1 Richards, 2 Styler, 3 Bailey, 4 Baylis ii. The mile—1 Styler, 2 Yates, 3 Ledbury, 4 Ross.

12—14.

100 yards—1 Baylis iv., 2 Taylor, 3 Rippington, 4 Smith ii. 220 yards—1 Gray, 2 Taylor, 3 Hunt i, 4 Biddle. Half-mile—1 Smith ii, 2 Hodgetts, 3 Hunt i, 4 Gray. Obstacle race—1 Baylis iii, 2 Holman 3 Smith i, 4 Thomas. High jump—1 Rippington, 2 Grubb, 3 Holman, 4 Baylis iii. (4ft. 4ins.) Slow bicycle race—1 Baylis iii, 2 Butt, 3 Hunt i, 4 Smith ii. Consolation race—1 Biddle, 2 Chatterley, 3 Hunt i, 4 Smith i. Hurdle race—1 Smith ii, 2 Grubb, 3 Baylis iii, 4 Baylis iv. Throwing the cricket ball—1 Grubb, 2 Bayne, 3 Chatterley, 4 Hunt i. Cross country race (3 miles)—1 Baylis iii, 2 Rippington, 3 Thomas, 4 Gray. Long jump—1 Grubb, 2 Holman, 3 Spiers, 4 Baylis iv.

Under 12.

Egg and spoon—1 Davis, 2 Walker, 3 Rutter, 4 Spencer i. 100 yards—1 Avery, 2 Down, 3 Sollis ii, 4 Allen ii. Obstacle Race—1 Sollis ii, 2 Lane, 3 Downs, 4 Walters. Back race—1 Midlane ii, 2 Down, 3 Sollis ii, 4 Allen ii. Three-legged race—1 Tomtits, 2 Tomtits, 3 Jackals, 4 Brownies.

Other events.

Relay race (Form I)—1 Tomtits, 2 Jackals, 3 Brownies. Tug-of-war—1 Brownies, 2 Tomtits, 3 Jackals. Obstacle race (8—9 years)—1 Midlane ii, 2 Hobson, 3 M. Williams, 4 B. Baylis. Relay race—1 Tomtits, 2 Brownies, 3 Jackals.

Totals—1 Tomtits (379 points), 2 Brownies (359 points), 3 Jackals (276 points).

Cup and Gold Medal—Styler (58 points).

K. B. Ll. B.

Sports Day Indoors.

This year Sports Day Indoors passed off as pleasantly as anyone could wish. In the morning there was the usual bustle among the members of the upper forms, whose aid was once more in demand to fetch and carry during the preparations of the hall for the coming of the visitors. These began to arrive in the early afternoon, and money-bags began to jingle as we quickly sold the more tempting exhibits. On the whole it was noticeable that there were fewer exhibits than usual, especially in cookery, but there

was some very good work on show on the needlework stalls, and many specimens were continually praised and admired. There was also a good display of historical dolls and historical models, which the visitors found very attractive.

There was no dancing on Sports Day this year, as it has been postponed until July 13th, when an exhibition of dancing is to be given as part of the celebrations of the School's Twenty-first Birthday. One change was particularly noticeable. The girls wore the new regulation summer frocks, about which too many comments have already been made to necessitate any further remarks here. Later in the day excitement ran high, and many speculations were made as to the winning of the shields. The eagerness culminated when the school gathered together, and Mr. Wells began to announce results, having first extended a welcome to Mr. and Mrs. Caton, who will be taking the place of Mr. and Mrs. Wells next year. After great anxiety on the part of the different sides it was announced that the Tomtits had been successful in winning both shields for the third time in succession. P. Carratt, who contributed largely to the winning of the Arts and Crafts shield by the Tomtits, is to be very heartily congratulated on obtaining the trophy for the third time, and on breaking her own record for the number of marks gained. Mrs. Spencer, well known to us all, presented the awards, the boys again showing that they could do their share in the matter of Arts and Crafts, as witnessed by the three who succeeded in obtaining medals.

The results were as follows:—

Tomtits 926 points (of which the boys scored 314).

Jackals 730 points (of which the boys scored 200).

Brownies 638 points (of which the boys scored 154).

Silver medals:—Seniors: P. Carratt (261), M. Skinner (166), J. Jackson (159), B. Greenhill (113), Bailey (105), K. Collins (78). Juniors: D. Hunt (73), M. Blackford (70).

Bronze medals:—Seniors: Baylis i (63), Linda Harris (62), M. Bryan (57), Sherwood i (55), J. Lane (52). Juniors: E. Smith (42), F. Johnson (42).

Olla Podrida.

“*Cum delecta peditum manu*”—“with hand-picked infantry.” P.H.S. is obviously a fruit farmer.

Rome was obviously not a place with more fools than wise men, for according to M.E.S. “Coriolanus has no fool, for it is a Roman play.”

Convincing discovery by Sixth-former—that the sun goes round the earth, because we can see it going.

Is H.E.Y. becoming a disciplinarian? He translates—“A boy does not accept food from his mother unless teaching him she strikes him.”

“Youths, fifty-six years old,” remarks M.D. during translations. Were there maidens, too?

Translation by a VA Latin expert: “But the more he was killed by the sons of Pompeius, the less he fled.” Quite right too, we should say.

Where was it that T.C.L. heard “the mighty clatter of wailing women?”

Spelling and electricity by a third-former—“A charged vulcanite rod attracts moth-borls.”

“A plum line is so-called because “it is shaped like a plum,” says D.L. What about the International Date Line?

That History Examination.

I wonder whether they'll ask me
 When that fatal day arrives,
 If our King Henry Eight had four
 Or was it seven wives?
 Or if King Alfred burnt some scones
 Or was it just a cake?
 And if John died of measles
 Or was it stomach-ache?
 They might ask me “What's a dandy?”
 Or still worse, “What's a beau?”
 Or “Who was the inventor
 Of the famous Plymouth Hoe?”
 They might ask me when Queen Lizzie died,
 And then there'd be a fix—
 For the only date I know of
 Is that of ten—six—six!
 For on that fatal day, my boys,
 Napoleon Bonaparte
 Crushed the French at Waterloo—
 And was nick-named Lion-heart!

P. H. S.

The Scout Concert.

It is a pleasure to announce that the Scout's Concert was a great success, and we had a full house at both performances.

We would like to express our sympathy with the member of the Roman mob who fell off the stage and also the citizen who was in fear of partial blindness due to an untimely gesture by Antony. It seems that the actors were very unfortunate this time, for it came to our notice that one worthy knight lost a large portion of his beard on a certain "box-tree."

But, to pass from this realm of accidents. We were pleased to note the musical ability of the juniors as represented by the pianoforte trio. The dancing was also much appreciated, the Godliwog dance being particularly popular. The junior play, "The Mad Hatter's Tea Party," was a favourite with most people. It was very picturesque as well as humorous.

A new feature in this year's concert was the story told in collaboration by four damsels from the Sixth form. The story, which was Mediaeval, was enhanced by the strains of Bach's Prelude. The Elizabethan costumes added considerably to this item.

The first part of the programme was brought to a close by the performance of four scenes from the "Twelfth Night." These Shakespearian productions were another new feature and were enjoyed by many people. The costumes for this item were greatly appreciated as a change from the usual improvised ones.

This was followed in the opening of the second half by the very spirited Mob scene from "Julius Caesar." This was presented by the Upper Fourth and we wonder if it is any indication of the form's general conduct that such a scene should have been thought suitable for them. It is hardly possible for some of us to think of the concert without having visions of white sheets and red stripes, which, sewn together, formed the ciuiens' togas.

Then followed a much discussed and much rehearsed programme of songs by the Scouts. It is hard to believe that the gentle voices of those concerned could produce such a volume of sound. However, despite much good-natured satire passed by certain people (not of the Scout Troop), these songs provided a pleasant interlude.

The evening, so far, had been filled with humour and pleasantries of one kind or another and the audience was ready for the heart-breaking "Bishop's Candlesticks" which brought the programme to a close. Here we experienced a display of real talent on the part of the convict. It seems queer to say that we were pleased to see tears in the eyes of the audience; yet it is true, for it proves the high standard of the production. It is difficult to believe that we found tear stains on the carpet which was on the stage and this rather worried us, because we had invested in a new carpet.

The Friday evening 'after curtain' was conducted with a grace worthy of the most distinguished actors, and we all joined our voices in the "National Anthem." This was the successful finish of the second and last evening's performance.

We hope no one found traces of grease on their clothes from the bone which was discarded with such vigour that it fell among the audience. We are sorry if we have lessened any one's scholastic ambitions, but it was suggested that the difficulty experienced by one actor in getting into a gown was ample excuse for not taking a degree. Acting is a "dry" game and I rather fancy that certain people were envious of those performers who found the drying room a convenient refreshment booth.

We should like to thank all who helped to make the concert a success, be it in acting, dressing or lending things or many other services. May the next concert be an even greater success than we older ones may return to see our followers acting in the familiar places we once filled.

AN ACTRESS.

The Reference Library.

The following books have this term been added to the Reference Library: "The Mercury Book;" "Emma" (J. Austen)—both presented by Mrs. Wells; "Pitt" (Roseberry)—presented by Lloyd; "Gladstone" (Birrell); "Cecil Rhodes" (Lockhart); "Queen Victoria" (Ponsonby); "Wesley" (Dobrée); "Confederation of Nations" (Barker); "Growth of International Thought" (Stawell); "Fascism" (Barnes); "Wesley" (Laver); "L'Ancien Régime" (de Tocqueville); "Gesta Francorum;" "The League Year Book, 1932;" "Travels in France" (Young).

The Scouts' Outing.

The Scouts' Outing this year, which took place on June 2nd, was of a somewhat different nature from usual; it was of a more educative nature, though none the less interesting on account of that. A day was spent in Liverpool, chiefly to see the docks, the journey being made by train instead of by motor-coach. Uniform was not worn under the circumstances and moreover, there was no need to take lunch, for which no doubt parents were duly thankful; though perhaps it was rather too much to expect all boys to be satisfied with the usual meals.

The scouts under the charge of Mr. Walker, Mr. Druller and Mr. Cook, left Alcester station at 7.10 a.m. in reserved carriages. We changed to an express at Birmingham and were soon speeding northwards. The weather was fine, though the Black Country sky was not too cheering a sight. Travelling through this district we had a glimpse of some of the distress which must be caused by the appalling state of the area, especially as to housing. Here it was, too that the 'sick list' began to increase—in spite of the fact that there had been less cooking than usual on Sports Day. Nothing serious disturbed the journey however: only two stops were made—at Wolverhampton and at Crewe, where cups of tea were taken on board to the accompaniment of caustic comments as to digestion and red noses!

We arrived at Liverpool at about 10.30, being met at the station by Mr. Quigley, of the Wayfarers' Travel Association, and immediately boarded a specially reserved tramcar, to the intense disgust of the 'groggy' members. It was unanimously decided that Liverpool Corporation trams and streets were incomparably worse than any others, though such a minor detail certainly did not damp the high spirits of the majority. We next had the novel experience of viewing all the docks from the overhead railway. To the joy of certain members again, the journey was not too lengthy and we came to mother earth once more to examine from closer quarters the docks and warehouses. We were unfortunately unable to go over a liner, but we did obtain an eye-opener by a close view of boats such as the 'Georgic,' 'Montcalm' and 'Doric.' We were shown the automatic unloading, the chief cause of the many unemployed dockers, and inspected the warehouses; spending, in short, a most educative and interesting hour, convincing us, both that the best way to learn is to see, and that a whole day could be profitably spent at the docks.

At twelve o'clock we returned once more to the city itself for dinner. At the Strand Cafe we were indeed provided with an excellent meal. The menu cards, specially printed for us, attracted great attention and admiration, while ample justice was done to a dinner of five courses. Speculating as to the ingredients in 'college pudding' and chaffing for the three tea-drinkers who refused to spoil their meal by 'pop,' served to flavour the healthy scout appetites revealed—even though certain juniors were unable to save a corner for the later courses. Under the direction of our guide we returned to the docks and crossed the Mersey to New Brighton on a ferry boat, the journey lasting twenty minutes and being a revelation to those who had never been in a busy shipping district before. We passed the liner 'Vandyke' looking beautifully spruce and clean, decorated ready for a Mediterranean cruise, small fishing boats and dirty tugs, all of which comprised a most attractive journey—with far less tendency to 'mal de mer' than was expected. We spent an enjoyable half-hour exploring New Brighton—and were not particularly impressed by its merits as a summer resort. Owing to the foolish desire of two young members of the party to lay in a store of ammunition for pea-shooting on the return journey, we missed the boat back to Liverpool, in spite of a magnificent dash along the pier—during which the bag of peas was dropped and deservedly lost to the owner. As a result of this we had to wait twenty minutes for another boat and consequently were unable to be on the landing stage for the departure of the 'Duchess of Richmond' for Canada—one of the major attractions of the day for which the Travel Association had been fortunate enough to secure admission for us to the landing stage itself. The passage back from New Brighton was rendered far more thrilling by a driving wind and rain—a real pleasure to those standing in the bow of the boat. We also had the experience of passing between the outgoing 'Duchess of Richmond' and the incoming 'Vandyke.'

It was now raining hard and as our time was limited we hurried off by our tram to view the magnificent St. George's Hall in Liverpool. The guides there showed one party round the cells and law courts; each Scout had the experience of entering the condemned cell, of standing in the dock and sitting in the judge's chair—let us hope the first two for the only time, and the last—well who knows—even though our future lawyer was not there. The other

party was conducted over the huge concert hall and the Assize Court, also finishing up in the dock—of a different nature from those we had been visiting earlier.

At 4.10 we said goodbye to our guide on Liverpool Station, after thanking him for his skill in helping to make the expedition so interesting, and entered the express for the return journey. We had 'railway tea' on the train; light tea—very light—being served in rapid time, more of which we confess was spent in trying to negotiate the length of twelve swaying coaches than in consuming edibles. However, a further stock was obtained at Crewe by those who needed it, and the time passed quickly and pleasantly as the train sped homewards. We arrived at Birmingham, having left the rain far behind, but had to wait here for nearly an hour for the connection to Alcester. The tea-drinking trio repaired once more to the station restaurant and returned looking considerably refreshed—due entirely however, to strong station tea. The party reached Alcester once more at 8.30 and split up after thanking Mr. Walker Mr. Druller and Mr. Cook for taking charge of the expedition and helping to make it one of the most instructive and enjoyable within memory.

C. H. B.

Sanctuary.

Darkness falls on Durham Cathedral, and a priest places a lantern behind the eyes of the sanctuary knocker, making them glow for their watch through the night. Two priests listen carefully for the sound of a possible fugitive, but all they hear is the twitter of a bird, or the noise of a deer. Suddenly they start forward; they seem to hear the clamour of an angry crowd. As the sounds grow louder the watchers hear the despairing cry of "Sanctuary! Sanctuary!" In the gathering gloom their eyes can discern a crowd; and a racing figure ahead drops about five yards from the door.

Close behind the fugitive one man with a huge club in his hands is leading the crowd. He lashes out at the panting wretch who is nearly touching the knocker, but misses and hits the door with a crash. The good men hurry to the rescue to find that the fugitive has touched the knocker. He is safe, but the crowd is roaring for revenge. The priests take the man up some stairs and he is secure within the holy building.

Overhead the bell is rung telling the sleeping city that once again a fugitive has found Sanctuary.

BAYLIS IV.

Tennis.

CAPTAIN AND SECRETARY: M. Skinner.

COMMITTEE: B. Greenhill, M. Hicks, J. Jackson, B. Clark.

During the beginning of term we were favoured with beautiful weather and as a result of a fair amount of practice the general standard of tennis is higher.

Three matches have been played, the school losing two by five matches to four. The first was against Evesham P.H.G.S., the other against a team of Old Girls. The usual mixed match with Old Scholars was played on July 3rd, and resulted in a victory for the school.

The Sides-matches were played early and resulted in victory for the Brownies, who beat the Jackals 6—0, 6—0, and also the Tomtits 6—0, 6—0. The Tomtits beat the Jackals 6—2, 6—4.

Matches in the Gold Medal Tournament have been completed. The winner is W. Wright, who defeated M. Skinner in the final, 6—1, 6—4. There was an average entry of sixteen this year. The School has been represented in the matches by:— M. Skinner, W. Wright, M. Rowles, M. Sisam, B. Greenhill, J. Lane, and as reserve B. Clark.

Results:—

A.G.S. v. Evesham P.H.G.S. (away) lost, 5 matches to 4.
v. An Old Girls' team (home) lost, 5 matches to 4.
v. Old Scholars (home) won, 58 games to 38.

M. E. S.

Cricket.

CAPTAIN—Baylis i. SECRETARY—Yates.

The cricket eleven started off the season in good style, beating both Redditch and Evesham soundly, after the first match with Evesham had been abandoned. Subsequently, however, certain weaknesses have been shown up, chief among them being the lack of variety in the bowling, which has rested mainly on the shoulders of Warner and Bailey, while a certain amount of success has fallen to Keniston. This weakness was particularly shown up in the two matches with Stratford K.E.G.S., who piled up a big total each time. Then the weather took a hand and we were defeated at Coughton between the showers. The batsmen, among whom Hodgkinson has been the most successful, have a decided tendency to "nerves," particularly at the commencement of the innings.

On July 6th the Juniors were given an opportunity of trying their skill against Alcester C. of E. School, and had an easy win.

Results:—

A.G.S. v. Evesham P.G.H.S. (away) abandoned; Evesham 59 for 4.
 v. Redditch C.H.S. (away) won; A.G.S. 68, Redditch C.H.S. 15.
 v. Evesham P.G.H.S. (home) won; A.G.S. 127, Evesham P.G.H.S. 57.
 v. Stratford K.E.G.S. (home) drawn; A.G.S. 61 for 5, Stratford K.E.G.S. 198 for 8 dec.
 v. Stratford K.E.G.S. (away) lost; A.G.S. 43, Stratford K.E.G.S. 176 for 3 dec.
 v. Coughton C.C. (away) lost; A.G.S. 53, Coughton C.C. 59.
 v. Stratford N.F.U. 2nd XI (home) lost; A.G.S. 116, Stratford N.F.U. 119 for 7.
 v. Stratford N.F.U. 2nd XI (away) won; A.G.S. 78, Stratford N.F.U. 24.
 v. Old Scholars (home) drawn; A.G.S. 62 for 5, Old Scholars 72 for 6 dec.

Juniors v. Alcester C. of E. School (home) won; A.G.S. Juniors 90, Alcester C. of E. School 35.

The following sides matches have been played this term: Tomtits beat Jackals; Tomtits beat Brownies; Jackals drew with Brownies.

A match between the Scouts and non-Scouts resulted in a victory for the latter by 122—98.

Football Results, 1932-33.

CAPTAIN: Sherwood I.

SECRETARY: Baylis I.

Played	Won	Lost	Drawn	Goals	
				For	Against
17	9	7	1	58	35

The following boys represented the school:—Sherwood I, Lloyd, Bailey, Baylis I, Warner, Baylis II, Styler, Hodgkinson, Savage I, Saunders, Chambers, Hill, Ross, Luker, Sherwood II.

For the Juniors.

Cloud Pictures.

One day, Joan went out to play. Soon she became tired and lay down. She noticed that the clouds seemed to form into pictures, so she stayed to watch them. First, they formed into a fairy castle, with marble pillars, then they changed into a flock of sheep. It seemed now that the sands and the sea were above her, but gradually all faded away as she fell fast asleep. When she woke she saw in the sky what looked like mountains with pink tops, that was because it was sunset. She lay still for some time looking upward. At last she got up and had a look round the garden. How pretty it all was! She saw the dew-drops sparkling like diamonds, and she saw the flowers shutting their petals. Then she said "Good-night" to all and went indoors.

M. WILLIAMS, Form I.
(aged 8 years).

All about a Buttercup.

I am only a little buttercup.

Now I'll tell you how and where I live.

I live in a great wide field, on a long green stalk, with lovely green leaves. I have a calyx which is of green, my petals are yellow and shaped liked hearts. I have many stamens, light green and yellow they are, and I have a seed-box of green. There I live with many companions just the same as me.

One day as I stood in the field, a big man came and nearly stood on me. Another day Mr. Mole shot a lot of soil up and scattered it over me. The same day I heard a r-r-r-r-r-ing noise and an aeroplane came down and nearly killed me.

Next day a little boy picked me and took me to his house. I was put in a vase with many other buttercups and placed in a big room. But my petals soon began to drop.

HOBSON, Form I
(aged 8 years).

ALCESTER:
THE CHRONICLE OFFICE,
HIGH STREET.